

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 211457Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3050

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, CU

SUBJECT: GIEREK VISITS CUBA

1. SUMMARY: MEDIA COVERAGE HERE OF GIEREK'S JANUARY 10-16 VISIT TO CUBA HAS FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON ITS CEREMONIAL ASPECTS. A SWISS DIPLOMAT OPINED TO US THAT THE VISIT MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY THE SOVIET UNION, AND A KNOWLEDGEABLE POLISH JOURNALIST SEPARATELY EXPRESSED THIS SAME VIEW, ADDING THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN PRESSED BY CASTRO TO SHOW GREATER ATTENTION TO HIM; GIEREK WAS A CONVENIENT INSTRUMENT FOR THIS SINCE IN 1973 THE POLES AND CUBANS AHD AGREED THAT HE WOULD VISIT IN 1974. ALTHOUGH THE JOINT POLISH-CUBAN DECLARATION, SIGNED BY GIEREK AND CASTRO AT THE END OF THE VISIT, CONTAINS CUBAN LANGUAGE ON THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE AND GUANTANAMO, PRESS COMMENT HERE HAS TONED THIS DOWN AND OUR POLISH SOURCES DOWPLAY THE ENTIRE EXERCISE.

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CISE AS A NOD TO CASTRO AND NOTHING MORE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE DEPARTMENT PRESUMABLY HAS THE TEXTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND DECLARATION. AN AGREEMENT ON INTER-PARTY COOPERATION ANNOUNCED BY THE COMMUNIQUE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED HERE. ALTHOUGH THE DECLARATION EXPRESSES POLISH SUPPORT FOR CUBAN POSITIONS VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. "ECONOMIC BLOCKADE" AND THE GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE, PRESS COMMENTARY HERE HAS PLAYED DOWN THESE STATEMENTS. REFERRING TO THESE POINTS IN A JANUARY 20 ANALYSIS OF THE DECLARATION, TRYBUNA LUDU EDITOR JOZEF BARECKI OMITTS SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND A ZYCIE WARSZAWY EDITORIAL THE SAME DAY SAYS NOTHING ABOUT THE STATEMENTS CONCERNING EITHER THE EMBARGO OR GUANTANAMO, DWELLING INSTEAD ON THE NEED FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS.

3. THE DECLARATION HAS A LENGTHY PASSAGE ON CSCE WITH THE STANDARD APPEAL FOR ITS SPEEDY CONCLUSION. IT ALSO REAFFIRMS THE FAMILIAR POSITIONS ON ISSUES IN BASKETS I AND II BUT OMITTS REFERENCE TO BASKET III MATTERS. THE PASSAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST ALSO FAILS TO MENTION THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. OTHER STATEMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING VIET-NAM, FOLLOW FAMILIAR LINES, WITH THE USUAL PAEANS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PRIMARY TASK OF FURTHERING INTERNATIONAL DETENTE.

4. MEDIA COVERAGE HERE HAS TREATED THE VISIT'S CEREMONIAL ASPECTS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY. ONE OF THE MORE SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS, APPEARING IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY ON JANUARY 17, CITED THE PRESTIGE BENEFITS ACCRUING TO EACH SIDE. A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF POLAND'S ACTIVE FOREIGN-POLICY ROLE, IT WAS GIEREK'S FIRST VISIT" TO CUBA, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE THIRD WORLD, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTARY, WHICH ALSO CALLED THE VISIT A MANIFESTATION OF CUBA'S ENHANCED "INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY."

5. COMMENT: THE LENGTHY DECLARATION CONTRASTS WITH THE NON-SUBSTANTIVE PRESS TREATMENT AND WITH CASTRO'S VISIT HERE IN JUNE 1972 WHICH, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF "WIDE-RANGING DIFFERENCES," FAILED EVEN TO PRODUCE A FINAL COMMUNIQUE (SEE WARSAW 2480 AND 2513 OF THAT YEAR). HOWEVER, WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT CONVINCED THAT POLISH-CUBAN RELATIONS HAVE ACQUIRED ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE BEYOND THAT OF FRATERNAL SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY. ALTHOUGH THE GIEREK VISIT CERTAINLY IMPROVED THE ATMOSPHERE, A CUBAN COMMERCIAL OFFICER HERE TOLD US SEVERAL MONTHS AGO THAT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MADE LITTLE PROGRESS, MAINLY, IN HIS VIEW, BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING WESTERN HEMISPHERE ORIENTATION OF CUBA'S ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF MACHIN-

ERY, SPARE PARTS, AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW. GIEREK'S VISIT WAS A PROTOCOL REQUIREMENT; THE COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN JABLONSKI'S VISIT TO CUBA IN APRIL 1973 PROMISED A VISIT BY GIEREK IN 1974.

GIEREK'S TRIP TO THE U.S. LAST FALL COULD ONLY HAVE HEIGHTENED CUBAN INSISTENCE. ADDITIONALLY, WE BELIEVE THAT A MAJOR CONSIDERATION WAS TO FULFILL A CONTINUING SOVIET-BLOC POLITICAL REQUIREMENT TO SHOW GREATER ATTENTION TO CUBA, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN, AS THE COMMUNISTS HOPE, CUBA MAY BE ON THE VERGE OF BREAKING OUT OF ITS OAS-IMPOSED "ISLOATION" AND WHEN THERE IS INCREASING DISCUSSION IN THE UNITED STATES ABOUT RELAXING POLICY TOWARD CUBA.

DAVIES

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